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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 MCT-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 /060 W
----------082344 112232Z /75
O R 112151Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7757
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS, CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4263

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: SITREP 11: 11 SEPTEMBER, MORNING

SUMMARY: VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE REPORTED IN SEVERAL CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN DEPARTMENTS OF ESTELI AND MASAYA, THE GON TODAY IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW FOR 30 DAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN AT LEAST THREE NICARAGUAN CITIES AS OF THIS MORNING. REPORTS FROM LEON INDICATE SNIPERS REMAIN ACTIVE AND THAT, DESPITE GN CLAIMS, THE CITY IS NOT TRANQUIL. IN CHINANDEGA AND ESTILI, CONTINUED FIGHTING, BARRICADES AND FIRES ARE REPORTED. PARTS OF THESE TOWNS ARE REPORTEDLY STILL BEING HELD BY INSURGENTS. IN MASAYA, WATER AND ELECTRICITY ARE REPORTED OUT OF SERVICE. EMB HAD
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RECEIVED AN EARLY REPORT OF 300 DEAD AND WOUNDED REPORTEDLY VIA THE GN, BUT XAVIER CHAMORRO, DIRECTOR OF LA PRENSA, REFUTES THIS. CHAMORRO TOLD AMB AND POLOFF TODAY THAT ONLY A FEW BODIES HAD THUS FAR BEEN SIGHTED IN MASAYA.

2. EFFECTIVE AT 0030 HOURS TODAY, THE GON HAS IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ESTELI AND MASAYA.

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CITING THE "CONSPIRACY TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTIONAL
ORDER" IN THE TWO DEPARTMENTS, THE GON HAS IMPOSED
MARTIAL LAW FOR 30 DAYS. UNDER MARTIAL LAW, CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS ARE SUSPENDED AND, THEREFORE, PERSONS ARRESTED MAY
BE DETAINED INDEFINITELY WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES BEING
FILED. EMB DOES NOT EXPECT THE GON TO ESTABLISH
MILITARY TRIBUNALS AS, IF MARTIAL LAW REMAINS IN EFFECT
FOR ONLY 30 DAYS, ANY PRISONERS BEING PROCESSED WOULD
HAVE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CIVILIAN COURTS UPON
RESTORATION OF LIBERTIES.

3. EMB HAS LEARNED THAT TELEVISION CHANNELS 2 AND 12
HAVE NOTIFIED THEIR NEWS EMPLOYEES THAT BOTH STATIONS
ARE ABANDONING THEIR NEWS SERVICES. BOTH CHANNELS ARE
OWNED BY THE SAME CORPORATION. THE INDEPENDENT RADIO
STATIONS HAVE BROADCAST ONLY GON-APPROVED NEWS FOR THE
PAST WEEK. THIS LEAVES ONLY THE SOMOZA-OWNED CHANNEL 6
(TELEVISION) AND GON-ISSUED STATEMENTS FOR NEWS. THUS
FAR, LA PRENSA, NOVEDADES, AND EL CENTROAMERICANO (LEON)
CONTINUE PUBLISHING REGULAR (IF ABREVIATED) ISSUES
DAILY.

4. ALL BANKS INDICATE THEY ARE CLOSING FOR THE DAY
AT 1:00 P.M. PAN AM HAS CANCELLED ALL EVENING FLIGHTS
TO PERMIT ITS EMPLOYEES TO RETURN HOME BEFORE DARK.
ECON REPORTS THAT SALARY CHECKS FOR PUBLIC TEACHERS
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WERE BOUNCED FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. THE GON REPORTEDLY
HAS REQUESTED BUSINESSES TO MAKE ADVANCE TAX PAYMENTS.
PRIVATE SECTOR SOURCES INDICATE THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE
NOT YET PAID, AND DO NOT PLAN TO PAY THEIR TAXES
THIS YEAR. THE TAX REPORTING PERIOD ENDS AT THE END
OF SEPTEMBER. ECON REPORTS THAT EFFECTIVE SAT GON IMPOSED
EXCHANGE CONTROLS. EMB UNDERSTANDS PURCHASE OF DOLLARS SUSPENDED.

5. GON-CONTROLLED "RADIO X" IN PERIODIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
STATES THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CITIES OF MASAYA
AND ESTELI, THE COUNTRY IS CALM AND UNDER THE CONTROL
OF THE GN. HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT CHINANDEGA ALSO FALLS IN THIS
CATEGORY. DATT RETURNED FROM MEETING WITH SENIOR
GN OFFICIALS AND REPORTS THAT HE WAS TOLD THE SAME
THISG. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS ATTEMPTING TO CHECK OUT THE SITU-
ATION IN CHINANDEGA DIRECTLY IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY CONCERN
WITH APPROXIMATELY 8 US CITZ THERE. IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE
FOR EMB TO GET THROUGH BY TELEPHONE SO FAR TODAY ALTHOUG
ONE OF THE OEOPLE IN MANAGUA CONCERNED ABOUT HIS AMCIT
CHILDREN IN CHINANDEGA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD
THROUGH A HAM RADIO OPERATOR THAT THEY ARE SAFE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, MARTIAL LAW, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU04263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780370-0264
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780982/aaaacpse.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed5e7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1486472
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP 11: 11 SEPTEMBER, MORNING SUMMARY: VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE REPORTED IN SEVERAL CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN DEPARTMENTS OF ESTELI A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed5e7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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